

*PREPARATIONS TO RECEIVE
MONSIEUR-*

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my own part, I must confess I was heartily tired of the ceremony, and was very glad when it was over. I do not admire the foreign uniforms, which were very inferior to ours.' Many of them appeared fanciful, and even grotesque, and nothing can be more unsoldier-like than to see a man laced in stays till his figure resembles a wasp- - ceremony which took place two days after, though, less pompous, was much more French. In the retinue which, on the 12th of April, momentarily increased round the Comte d'Artois, there were at least recollections for the old, and hopes for every one.

When, on the departure of the Commissioners whom Napoleon had sent to Alexander to treat for the liegenc.y, it was finally determined that the Allied sovereigns would listen to no proposition from Napoleon and his family, the Provisional Government thought it time to request that Monsieur would, by his presence, give a new impulse to the* partisans of the Bourbons. The Abbe de Montc-'squiou wrote to the Prince a letter,¹ which was carried to him by Viscount Sosthenes de la Rochefoucauld, one of the individuals who, in these difficult circumstances, most zealously served the cause of the Bourbons. On the afternoon of the 11th Monsieur arrived at a country-house belonging to Madame Charles de Damas, where he passed the night. The news of his arrival spread through Paris with the rapidity of lightning, and every one wished to solemnize his entrance into the capital. The National Guard formed a double line from the barrier of Bondy to Notre Dame, whither the Prince was first to proceed, in observance of an old custom, which, however, had become very rare in Paris during the last twenty years.

M. de Talleyrand, accompanied by the members of the Provisional Government, several Marshals and general officers, and the municipal body, headed by the prefect of the Bc*.in<%

¹ Much of the negotiations, or rather communications, with the Comte d'Artois at this period was conducted by the Baron de Vitrolles, whoac** Memoirs, used by M. Thiers when still in manuscript (*Thiers*, tome xvii. livrt* liii. p. 496), have now been published in part (Paris, Charpentier> 1884)

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